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The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families discloses to the public this written summary of information regarding the death of Baby Christopher pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 48.981(7)(cr):

48.981(7)(cr)(2)(a) A description of any investigation made by the agency in response to the report of the suspected abuse or neglect, a statement of the determination made by the agency under sub. (3)(c)4. with respect to the report and the basis for that determination, a statement of whether any services were offered or provided to the child, the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect and a statement of whether any other action was taken by the agency to protect the child who is the subject of the report or any other child residing in the same dwelling as the child who is the subject of the report.

On November 10, 2008, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) was notified by the Milwaukee Police Department that Baby Christopher had been physically abused while in the unlicensed relative caregiver home of his paternal aunt and uncle, Crystal and Reginald Keith. Baby Christopher was transported to Children's Hospital of Wisconsin and died the morning of November 11, 2008 from blunt force head trauma.

The Milwaukee Police Department also determined that Baby Christopher's surviving sister had injuries indicative of serious physical abuse. She was transported by ambulance to the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin emergency room and was admitted for the treatment of her physical injuries. She was discharged from the hospital into the care of a licensed foster home on November 24, 2008. The child was placed with an experienced foster parent who received training at the hospital in order to provide the care needed. The child is currently receiving occupational, physical, and speech therapy as well as counseling and medical services.

This case was screened in for a child protective services (CPS) investigation by the BMCW, and physical abuse to Baby Christopher and his sister was substantiated based on medical reports and Crystal Keith's confession to the Milwaukee Police Department. Additionally, the Keith's biological child was taken into physical custody and remains in placement in a licensed foster home. The child is currently in therapy to address trauma issues from witnessing the abuse of Baby Christopher and his sister. The Keith's are not, and never have been, licensed foster parents.

Due to concerns about her safety, a Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS) petition has been filed for Crystal and Reginald Keith's biological child. At the initial court appearance both Reginald and Crystal Keith contested the petition.

Crystal Keith is currently incarcerated and has been charged with felony child abuse and felony first-degree reckless homicide.

48.981(7)(cr)(2)(b) Whether any previous report of suspected or threatened abuse or neglect of the child has been made to the agency and the date of the report, a statement of the determination made by the agency under sub. (3) (c) 4. with respect to the report and the basis for that determination, a statement of whether any services were offered or provided to the child, the child's family or the person suspected of the abuse or neglect and a statement of whether any other action was taken by the agency to protect the child who is the subject of the report or any other child residing in the same dwelling as the child who is the subject of the report.

On March 2, 2008 the BMCW received and screened in a child protective services (CPS) report alleging that Baby Christopher and his sister were being physically abused and neglected by their mother. A determination was made that the children were unsafe in their mother's care, and neglect was substantiated by the BMCW. The Initial Assessment Social Worker (IASW) referred the family to the BMCW's Safety Services Program to implement emergency in-home safety services. The mother failed to participate in the process to implement in-home Safety Services, and the children were taken into custody and placed in out-of-home care. At that time, the case was transferred for Ongoing Services case management by La Causa and, initially, the children were placed in separate assessment foster homes. The court-ordered permanency goal for the children was reunification with their mother.

Prior to placement in out-of-home care, Baby Christopher's sister was involved with "Birth to 3" which is an early intervention program for infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and their families. Developmental strengths and needs are assessed in five areas: cognitive development, physical/motor development, speech and language development, social and emotional development, and adaptive development. Services and supports are put in place to enhance a child's development. Services are provided in a child's natural environments, which may include the home, child care, or other community settings.

Behavioral concerns were noted for both children while in their assessment homes. Baby Christopher was difficult to calm or soothe, and his sister's behaviors and speech delays indicated a need for a higher level of specialized services. As a result, on April 16, 2008, Baby Christopher's sister was placed in a treatment foster home. The sibling's Birth to 3 services were interrupted as she transitioned to this foster home. The BMCW Central Staffing committee also approved placement of Baby Christopher in the same home so that the siblings could remain together. He was then placed in the treatment foster home on May 12, 2008.

Reginald and Crystal Keith first made contact with the BMCW in March of 2008 inquiring about placement of the children. Paternity for Reginald's brother, the biological father, had not yet been established for Baby Christopher and the children were not placed in the care of the Keith's at that time.

A maternal great aunt and both paternal and maternal grandparents also expressed interest in being a placement resource for Baby Christopher and his sister. The Kinship Care referral process was initiated, but the approval process was not completed for the maternal grandmother. In addition, on September 22, 2008, the maternal great grandparents expressed concerns about the children's safety and inquired about the children being placed with them.

On May 1, 2008, paternity was confirmed and the La Causa Ongoing Case Manager (OCM) and the OCM Mentor conducted a home visit with the Keith family. The OCM staff gathered

information from the family in order to assess the feasibility of placing the children in an unlicensed relative caregiver setting. The assessment process included gathering demographic information as well as information related to child and caregiver capacities, parenting practices, family functioning, and general care and family support.

This process also included a Milwaukee County child protective services background check and criminal background check through the Wisconsin Department of Justice Crime Information Bureau, the Milwaukee Police Department, and the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access. There was no criminal history for Ms. Keith while Mr. Keith had a pending child support action which was resolved when he married Ms. Keith.

Based on the assessment process, the Keith home was approved for the unlicensed relative caregiver placement of Baby Christopher and his sister. Prior to placement, weekend visits occurred to assure the Keith's understood the children's needs, and to integrate the children into the home. Placement in the Keith home occurred on June 15, 2008 and Birth to 3 services were reinstated in order to address the sister's needs.

Contact by the La Causa OCM occurred in the unlicensed relative caregiver home, and supervised visits continued between the children and their mother twice a week until October 2008. No concerns were noted by the OCM until September 2008 when Crystal and Reginald Keith cancelled several visits with the mother and Birth to 3 appointments. The last Birth to 3 in-home session occurred on October 10, 2008.

Even though a determination was made that the home was clean and orderly and there were no safety concerns, the OCM began to collect information about other family members who may be able to care for the children if the Keith's continued to cancel visits and appointments.

In October 2008, the supervised visitation worker notified the OCM that a sore was observed under Baby Christopher's tongue. Concerns about toilet training practices with Baby Christopher's sister were also raised by the supervised visitation worker in October. The OCM followed up with Mr. Keith in order to address these concerns. Crystal and Reginald Keith agreed to change their toilet training approach and scheduled an appointment with a physician to examine Baby Christopher's sore on his tongue.

48.981(7)(cr)(2)(c) Whether the child or the child's family has received any services under this chapter prior to the report of suspected abuse or neglect that caused the child's death or serious or critical condition or any previous report of suspected or threatened abuse or neglect.

Baby Christopher's sister received services from the Birth to 3 Program that focused on her behavioral issues (hitting, biting, and aggressive behaviors) as well as speech and education issues. While in the care of Mr. and Ms. Keith, however, the child was not consistently receiving services since they cancelled five Birth to 3 appointments and the child's mother cancelled one appointment.

Supervised family interaction occurred at the La Causa Visitation Center as well as in the Keith family home in order to maintain the connection between the children and their mother. The OCM provided the mother with bus passes so that supervised visits could occur on a regular

basis. The mother routinely interacted with the children in a positive manner, however, those visits ceased in October.

Visits were made to the Keith home by OCM staff on June 18th, June 23rd, August 25th, September 23rd, and October 31st. The home visits were used to determine how the children's placement was working out, resolve issues about family interaction/visitation and other family conflict, and observe the children and the living environment. Throughout the time Baby Christopher and his sister were placed with Mr. and Ms. Keith, no signs of physical abuse were observed or noted by La Causa staff.

Prior to March, 2008, the Keith family and Baby Christopher's family of origin had not received any services from the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare.